



**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY WHIP  
THE HONORABLE JAMES E. CLYBURN (SC-06)**

# **THE WHIP PACK**

**WEEK OF APRIL 14, 2008**

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## **Bill Text and Background for the Week of April 14, 2008**

- H.R. 2634 - Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation 2007
- H.R. 5719 - Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008
- H.R. 5715 - Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loan Act of 2008
- H.R.2537 - To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to Beach Monitoring

**H.R. 2634 - JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION** *(Rep. Waters - Financial Services) (Subject to a Rule)*

**Bill Text:** [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

**Rules Committee Meeting:** Monday April 14, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in H-313 the Capitol, [Special Announcement](#), [Meeting Time: 5:00pm Monday 4/14](#), [Amendment Deadline: 12:00pm Monday 4/14](#), [Text of Bill as Reported](#), [Financial Services Committee Report: 110-575](#)

**Committee:** [Committee on Financial Services](#)

**Committee Staff Contact:** 5-4247

**LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:**

**The Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008**

HR 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008, builds on the immensely successful debt relief efforts begun more than a decade ago to provide debt relief for the world's poorest countries as an essential component in the overall effort to help alleviate the poverty and misery that exists in many parts of the world.

The legislation instructs the Secretary of Treasury to commence multilateral negotiations for an agreement within the international financial institutions (such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund) and the Paris Club of bilateral creditors to cancel the debt of up to 24 of the world's poorest countries that can only receive aid from the International Development Association arm of the World Bank, based on relative poverty and lack of creditworthiness.

To be eligible for debt relief under this Act, these additional low-income nations, which do not qualify under current debt relief programs, must meet specific conditions outlined in the bill. These conditions include a require that governments foster transparent and participatory policies to achieve poverty reduction through economic growth; ensure sound budget procedures, good governance and effective anticorruption measures; and produce and disclose to the public an annual report disclosing how the savings from debt cancellation were used. To benefit, countries would also have to engage interested parties, including a broad cross-section of civil society groups, in the spending allocation process, produce an annual report on this spending, and make it publicly available.

Countries would be excluded from receiving the debt cancellation under the Jubilee Act if they:

- have an excessive level of military expenditures;
- have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism;
- fail to cooperate on international narcotics control matters; or
- engage in a consistent pattern of gross human rights violations

H.R. 2634 would bring debt relief within the reach of virtually all of the world's poorest countries. While the IDA-only criterion for eligibility under the bill will capture some countries with relatively low levels of external debt, all of these countries are ones with very high levels of poverty, and thus they need to maximize the amount of resources that they can marshal to promote human development and move toward the millennium development goals for reducing poverty.

The legislation also requires the Secretary to promote within the international community transparent lending processes and responsible financing policies for the benefit of debtor nation.

This legislation only provides authorization for the Secretary of the Treasury to commence efforts to negotiate a multilateral agreement on debt cancellation, but it does not authorize the implementation of any agreement. Since Congress would have to approve any future agreement that might be reached to cancel bilateral and multilateral debts, CBO estimates that enacting HR 2634, by itself, would have no budgetary impact.

The legislation also expresses the Sense of the Congress that to further the goals of debt reduction for low-income countries, in addition to the efforts described in this Act, the United States should pay off outstanding arrearages of \$595.8 million to the multilateral development banks and debt reduction efforts.

**House Report 110-575:**

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

**Full Committee on Financial Services Mark-up:**

[Full Committee Markup](#): H.R. 2634, Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007, April 3, 2008

[National Journal Report](#): Financial Services Panel Votes To Expand Debt Forgiveness

- Opening Statement: [Congresswoman Waters](#)
- [Archived Webcast](#)

**Summary of Committee Votes:**

- [Chairman Frank, D-Mass. Manager's Amendment](#) — Makes various technical and substantive changes to the legislation. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

**CRS Reports:**

(TBA)

**GAO Reports:**

(TBA)

**CBO Report:**

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the Committee on Financial Services

**Full Committee on Financial Services Hearing:**

[Full Committee Hearing](#): H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008, November 8, 2007

- [Archived Webcast](#); Printed Hearing ([110-80](#))

**Witness Testimony:**

- [Mr. Neil Watkins](#), National Coordinator, Jubilee USA Network
- [Ms. Emira Woods](#), Co-Director, Foreign Policy in Focus, Institute for Policy Studies
- [Mr. Gerald F. Flood](#), Counselor, Office of International Justice and Peace, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- [Mr. Aldo Caliarj](#), Director, Rethinking Bretton Woods Project, Center of Concern

**Organization Statements:**

(TBA)

**Administration Position:**

(TBA)

**Fact Sheets & Talking Points:**

HR 2634 Summary — Committee on Financial Services

**Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:**

[Financial Services Committee Approves New Round of Debt Relief for Poor Countries>>](#)

April 3, 2008 Press Release — Committee on Financial Services

**Other Resources:**

[Cosponsors of H.R. 2634](#)

**H.R. 5719 - TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008** (Rep. Rangel - Ways and Means) (Subject to a Rule)

**Bill Text:** [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)  
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

**Rules Committee Meeting:** Monday, April 14, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in H-313 the Capitol, [Special Announcement](#), [Revised Meeting Time: 5:00pm Monday 4/14](#), [Text of the Bill as Ordered Reported](#)

**Committee:** [Committee on Ways and Means](#)

**Committee Staff Contact:** 5-3625

**LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:**

**Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008**  
*Chairman's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute*

**Modification of penalty on understatement of taxpayer's liability by tax return preparer.** The bill would conform the penalty standards for return preparers with the standards for taxpayers. For undisclosed positions, the penalty standard for return preparers is reduced to substantial authority. For disclosed positions, a return preparer generally must have a reasonable basis for the position. For positions involving tax shelters and certain reportable transactions, a return preparer must have a reasonable belief that the position would more likely than not be sustained on the merits. *This proposal is estimated to cost \$22 million over ten years.*

**Removal of cellular telephones (or similar telecommunications equipment) from listed property.** The bill would eliminate the special requirements for individuals to keep detailed records of calls made on employer-provided cell phones to substantiate business use of such devices. *This proposal is estimated to cost \$237 million over ten years.*

**Delay of application of withholding requirement on certain governmental payments for goods and services.** The bill would delay for one year the imposition of a three-percent withholding requirement on government payments for goods and services made after December 31, 2010. *This proposal is estimated to cost \$316 million over ten years.*

**Elderly and disabled individuals receiving in-home care under certain government programs not subject to employment tax provisions.** The bill would make the administrators of state and local government programs liable for paying the employment taxes on amounts paid by government programs to in-home care workers provided to elderly and disabled persons. The bill would not apply to amounts paid by elderly and disabled individuals to home care workers. *This proposal is estimated to have a negligible revenue effect.*

**Referrals to low income taxpayer clinics permitted.** The bill would allow IRS employees to refer taxpayers needing assistance with tax cases to qualified low-income taxpayer clinics. *This proposal is estimated to have a negligible revenue effect.*

**Programs for the benefit of low-income taxpayers.** The bill would authorize an annual \$10 million grant for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance ("VITA") programs. The bill also would increase the annual aggregate limitation authorized on grants to qualified low-income taxpayer clinics to \$10 million. *This proposal is estimated to have no revenue effect.*

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) outreach.** The bill would require the IRS, to the extent possible, to notify taxpayers: (1) of potential eligibility for the credit for all open tax years and (2) who have not filed a return but may be eligible for the credit based on other return or return information. *The proposal is estimated to have no revenue effect.*

**Prohibition on IRS debt indicators for predatory refund anticipation loans.** The bill would prohibit the Secretary of Treasury (e.g., IRS) from providing debt indicators to private parties if it is determined that the resulting refund anticipation loan plus related fees are predatory. *This proposal is estimated to have no revenue effect.*

**Study on delivery tax refunds.** The bill would require a one-year study by Treasury of the feasibility of providing tax refunds on debit cards. *This proposal is estimated to have no revenue effect.*

**Extension of time for return of property for wrongful levy.** The bill would increase the time from nine months to two years for returning property that has been wrongfully levied and the period for bringing action for wrongful levy. *The proposal is estimated to have a negligible revenue effect.*

**Individuals held harmless on wrongful levy, etc., on individual retirement plan.** The bill would allow an individual to contribute back to an IRA amounts that were levied and returned by the IRS (and interest if applicable) within 60 days without the normal limitations on IRA contributions. *The proposal is estimated to have a negligible revenue effect.*

**Taxpayer notification of suspected identity theft.** The bill would require the Secretary of Treasury (e.g., the IRS), to the extent permitted by law, to notify taxpayers if it determines that there may have been an unauthorized use of the identity of a taxpayer or the taxpayer's dependent. *This proposal is estimated to have no revenue effect.*

**Repeal of authority to enter into private debt collection contracts.** The bill would repeal the IRS's statutory authority to use private debt collection companies to locate and contact taxpayers owing federal taxes and to arrange payment of such taxes. *This proposal is estimated to cost \$578 million over ten years.*

**Clarification of IRS unclaimed refund authority.** The bill would provide that the IRS may disclose taxpayer identity information, for unclaimed refund notification purposes, by any "means of mass communication," which would include on the website [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). *The proposal is estimated to have no revenue effect.*

**Prohibition on misuse of Department of the Treasury names and symbols.** The bill would clarify that Internet domain names using the Department of Treasury and associated agencies (e.g., IRS.com, IRS.net, IRS.org) are misleading within the meaning of law, and clarify that mass Internet email communications ("phishing") that mislead the public into believing the sender is the IRS are subject to the higher civil/criminal penalties available under current law (i.e., \$25,000/\$50,000). *This proposal is estimated to have no revenue effect.*

**Substantiation of amounts paid or distributed out of health savings accounts.** The bill would provide that distributions from a health savings account for qualified medical expenses would be excluded from gross income only to the extent substantiated. The bill also would require trustees to report expenses not substantiated. *This proposal is estimated to raise \$308 million over ten years.*

**Certain domestically controlled foreign persons performing services under contract with United States government treated as American employers.** The bill generally would treat foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies performing services under a U.S. government contract as American employers for employment tax purposes. The domestic parent would be jointly liable for employment taxes imposed on the foreign subsidiary. *This proposal is estimated to raise \$860 million over ten years.*

**Time for payment of corporate estimated tax payment.** The bill would temporarily increase, for three months in 2013, required estimated tax payments for certain large corporations. *The proposal is estimated to have no effect on revenue over ten years.*

**House Report 110-:**

HTML Version, PDF Version

**Full Committee on Ways and Means Mark-up:**

[Full Committee Markup](#): 1. H.R. 5720, the "Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008" 2. H.R. 5719, the "Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008", April 9, 2008

[National Journal Report](#): Ways and Means Votes Against Private Tax Collectors

- [Description of H.R. 5719](#) — Committee on Ways and Means
- Please click here to view [Text of the Legislation](#) as introduced, a [Summary](#) and a [Table](#) outlining the estimated revenue effects prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation

**Summary of Committee Votes:**

- [Rep. K. Brady, R-Texas IRS Outsourcing Amendment](#) — Would have struck a provision from bill to eliminate the IRS authorization of outsourcing federal debt collection to private companies. **Rejected 17-23: R 17-0; D 0-23; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. P. Ryan, R-Wis. Health Savings Accounts Amendment](#) — Would have struck a provision to require taxpayers to substantiate the amounts distributed from health care savings accounts that went to health care costs. The provision would have excluded distributions from a health savings account from gross income only to the amount substantiated. **Rejected 15-24: R 15-1; D 0-23; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. Herger, R-Calif. Percentage Withholding Amendment](#) — Would have replaced the provision to delay imposition of a 3 percent withholding requirement on government payment for goods and services made after 2010 with a full repeal of the withholding requirement. **Rejected 17-23: R 17-0; D 0-23; I 0-0.**
- [Chairman Rangel, D-N.Y. Substitute Amendment](#) — The Amendment does the following: removes three tax return penalty increases that would have served as revenue raisers; changes the effective date for the health savings accounts substantiation requirement to after Dec. 31, 2010; imposes an employment tax for wages paid to employees of foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies under U.S. government contract; and ensures the payment of U.S. Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
  - [Description](#) and [Table](#) outlining the estimated revenue effects of the Chairman's Substitute Amendment.
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by a Roll Call Vote of **23-17: R 0-17; D 23-0; I 0-0.**

**CRS Report:**

[RL31181](#): Research and Experimentation Tax Credit: Status and Selected Issues for Congress

**GAO Reports:**

(TBA)

**CBO Report:**

(TBA)

**Organization Statements:**

HR 5719 Support Statements: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA): National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)

**Administration Position:**

(TBA)

**Fact Sheets & Talking Points:**

H.R. 5719 Fact Sheet — Committee on Ways and Means

Health Savings Accounts (HSA) Talking Points — Committee on Ways and Means

Private Debt Collection Talking Points — Committee on Ways and Means

**Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:**

[Ways and Means Passes Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008>>](#)

April 9, 2008 Press Release — Committee on Ways and Means

**Other Resources:**

[Cosponsors of H.R. 5719](#)

**H.R. 5715 - THE ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008** (Rep. George Miller (CA) – Education and Labor) (Subject to a Rule)

**Bill Text:** [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)  
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

**Rules Committee Meeting:** Wednesday April 16, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in H-313 the Capitol, [Special Announcement](#), [Meeting Time: 3:00pm Wednesday 4/16](#), [Text of the Bill as Ordered Reported](#), [Amendment Deadline 5:00 PM Tuesday 4/15](#)

**Committee:** [Committee on Education and Labor](#)

**Committee Staff Contact:** 5-3725

**LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:**

**The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008**

*In recent months, turmoil in the U.S. credit markets has made it difficult for some lenders in the federally guaranteed student loan program to secure the capital needed to finance college loans, leading some lenders to scale back their lending activity. While no student or college has reported any problems accessing federal student aid to date, it is only prudent for the federal government to make sure that contingency plans are in place that would provide students and families with continued, uninterrupted access to federal loans, regardless of what's happening in the credit markets. The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 would provide new protections, in addition to those in current law, to ensure that families can continue to access the loans they need to pay for college.*

*H.R. 5715 would:*

**Reduce borrowers' reliance on costlier private college loans and encourage responsible borrowing**

- Under current law, dependent undergraduate students can borrow \$3,500 in unsubsidized federal loans during their first year of college; \$4,500 in unsubsidized loans during their second year; and \$5,500 in unsubsidized loans during their final two years of college. Over the course of their education, dependent undergraduate students can currently borrow up to \$23,000 in total federal student loans (both subsidized and unsubsidized) and independent undergraduates can borrow up to \$46,000 in total loans.
- H.R. 5715 would increase the annual loan limits on federal unsubsidized student loans by \$2,000 for all students, and increase the aggregate loan limits (the total loan limit over the course of a student's education) to \$31,000 for dependent undergraduates and to \$57,500 for independent undergraduates.

**Give parent borrowers more time to begin paying off their federal PLUS college loans**

- Under current law, parent borrowers must begin repayment of federal PLUS college loans 60 days after the disbursement of the loan.
- H.R. 5715 would give parents the option to defer repayment until up to six months after their children leave school, giving families more flexibility in hard economic times.

### **Help struggling homeowners pay for college**

- Under current law, parents with an adverse credit history are ineligible to receive a parent PLUS loan, except under extenuating circumstances.
- H.R. 5715 would temporarily classify as an extenuating circumstance delinquencies on home mortgages of up to 180 days, therefore making it possible for parents feeling strained by the current housing market to secure loans for their children.

### **Provide the U.S. Secretary of Education additional tools to safeguard access to student loans**

- H.R. 5715 would clarify that existing law gives the U.S. Education Secretary the mandatory authority to advance federal funds to guaranty agencies operating as lenders of last resort in the event that they do not have sufficient capital to originate new loans. The bill would also allow guaranty agencies to carry out the functions of lender of last resort on a school-wide basis.
- H.R. 5715 would also give the Secretary the temporary authority to purchase loans from lenders in the federal guaranteed loan program, if there was a determination that lenders and other existing policy options were unable to meet the demand for loans. This would ensure that lenders continue to have access to capital to originate new loans. The Education Department would only be authorized to purchase loans in such a manner that would carry no cost for the federal government.

### **House Report 110-:**

HTML Version, PDF Version

### **Full Committee on Education and Labor Mark-up:**

[Full Committee Markup](#): H.R.5715 "Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008" and H.R.5522 "Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008", April 9, 2008

[National Journal Report](#): House Education Clears Bill To Ensure Student Loan Access

- Opening Statement: [Chairman Miller](#)

### **Summary of Committee Votes:**

- [Rep. T. Price, R-Ga. Cost Offsets Amendment](#) — Would have prevented any authorization of funds that would be made by the bill to take effect if they resulted in costs to the federal government, unless the measure included corresponding provisions to offset those costs. **Rejected 16-21: R 16-0; D 0-21; I 0-0.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House by **Voice Vote.**

### **CRS Reports:**

(TBA)

### **GAO Reports:**

(TBA)

### **CBO Report:**

(TBA)

**Full Committee on Education and Labor Hearing:**

[Full Committee Hearing](#): "Ensuring the Availability of Federal Student Loans", March 14, 2008

- [Archived Webcast](#)

**Witness Testimony:**

- [The Honorable Margaret Spellings](#), U.S. Secretary of Education
- [Sarah Bauder](#), Director of Student Financial Aid, University of Maryland
- [Roberta Johnson](#), Director of Student Financial Aid, Iowa State University
- [Terry Muilenburg](#), Senior VP, USA Funds
- [Charlie C. Sanders, Jr.](#), President and CEO, S.C. Student Loan Corporation
- [Paul Wozniak](#), Managing Director and Manager, UBS Education Loan Group

**Organization Statements:**

(TBA)

**Administration Position:**

(TBA)

**Fact Sheets & Talking Points:**

H.R. 5715 Fact Sheet — Committee on Education and Labor

**Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:**

[House Education Committee Approves Bill to Ensure Continued Access to Student Loans for American Families>>](#)

April 9, 2008 Press Release — Education and Labor Committee

[Chairmen Miller, Hinojosa Announce Legislation to Ensure Continued Access to Student Loans for American Families>>](#)

April 3, 2008 Press Release — Education and Labor Committee

[Lawmakers Urge Spellings to Take Action to Ensure Students Have Continued Access to Federal College Loans>>](#)

March 14, 2008 Press Release — Education and Labor Committee

[Rep. Miller, Sen. Kennedy Write to Secretary Spellings on Credit Market Stress and Federal Student Loan Programs>>](#)

February 28, 2008 Press Release — Education and Labor Committee

**Other Resources:**

[Cosponsors of H.R. 5715](#)

**H.R. 2537 - TO AMEND THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT RELATING TO BEACH MONITORING** (*Rep. Pallone – Transportation and Infrastructure*)

**Bill Text:** [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

**Committee:** [Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#)

**Committee Staff Contact:** 5-4472

**LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:**

**The Beach Protection Act of 2008**

H.R. 2537, the Beach Protection Act of 2008, amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to reauthorize appropriations for the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (“BEACH”) Act through fiscal year 2012.

As reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, H.R. 2537 reauthorizes \$40 million in appropriations annually for the Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA”) BEACH program. The BEACH program provides grants to states along the coasts and Great Lakes for state and local recreational water monitoring and notification programs.

The Beach Protection Act increases the existing annual authorization by \$10 million to reflect an expansion of eligible uses for grants under this program. For example, H.R. 2537 allows states to utilize a portion of their BEACH grant funding to develop and implement coastal recreation waters pollution source identification and tracking programs, which will enable interested states to locate the likely sources of coastal water contamination.

H.R. 2537 also clarifies and enhances state and local authorities for notifying the public when the beach waters are likely contaminated and present a potential threat to human health. First, this legislation clarifies that the public must be notified with 24-hours of the results of contaminated water quality sample. However, because many states utilize a system where two contaminated samples must be identified before a beach is closed, H.R. 2537 also requires that a physical sign must be posted at any beach where the results of a water quality sample demonstrate the *likelihood* that the water *may be contaminated*. This information is essential to ensure the public can avoid contact with potentially harmful pollutants while visiting their favorite beach.

The Beach Protection Act also enhances EPA’s review of individual states’ compliance with the requirements of the BEACH Act by requiring the Administrator to conduct an annual review of implementation of the BEACH Act by State and local governments, and to take corrective action for State and local governments that are not in compliance with the BEACH Act requirements. This legislation also requires the Government Accountability Office to review and report on EPA’s administration of the BEACH Act.

Finally, H.R. 2537 requires EPA to carry out a study of the formula for the distribution of coastal recreation water quality monitoring and notification program development and implementation grants under the BEACH Act and to report to Congress on the results of the study, including any recommendations for revision of the existing formula.

The Chairwoman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Eddie Bernice Johnson, will offer a manager's amendment to H.R. 2537 that will direct EPA to complete its ongoing evaluation and validation of a "rapid testing methodology" for detecting contamination of coastal recreation waters by October 1, 2010, and upon completion of the validation, to develop guidelines for their use at beaches most frequently utilized by the public. Rapid testing methodologies are intended to shorten the period between when coastal recreation water is sampled to when results are made publicly available, with the goal of having real-time, same-day information on the condition of the nation's beaches and recreational waters. Upon completion of EPA's validation of a rapid testing methodology, the period of time necessary for testing coastal waters is likely to shorten from 24 hours to between 2 and 3 hours.

**House Report 110-491:**

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

**Full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Mark-up:**

[Full Committee Markup](#): October 31, 2007

- To read summary of subject matter, [click hear](#)

**Summary of Committee Votes:**

- **Chairman Oberstar, D-Minn. Substitute Amendment** — Reauthorizes the BEACH Act of 2000 (PL 106-284), which requires the EPA assist states in testing beach waters for contaminants and in implementing public notification programs. The substitute also does the following: reduces the authorization to \$40 million for fiscal 2008 to 2012 from \$60 million; allows states to use some of their grant funds to implement programs to track the source of water pollution; requires the EPA to publish criteria for the use of rapid testing methods; prioritizes the use of such methods at beaches that have the highest use by the public; requires states to post signs at beaches to notify the public in the event of contaminated water; requires the EPA to study the formula for the distribution of grants authorized under the bill; requires the EPA to study the cost to states of water quality maintenance, including beach mileage and usage. It would require a report to Congress on the study; and requires the EPA to publish a list of all pathogens and pathogen levels. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by **Voice Vote**

**CRS Reports:**

(TBA)

**GAO Reports:**

[GAO-07-1073T](#): The BEACH Act of 2000: EPA and States Have Made Progress Implementing the Act, but Further Actions Could

**CBO Report:**

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

**Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Hearing:**

[Reauthorization of the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act>>](#)

July 12, 2007 Hearing — Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

- To read summary of subject matter, [click here](#)
- To read witness testimony from the hearing, [click here](#).

**Organization Statements:**

(TBA)

**Administration Position:**

(TBA)

**Fact Sheets & Talking Points:**

[H.R. 2537 Fact Sheet](#) — Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

[H.R. 2537 Report](#) — Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

**Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:**

(TBA)

**Other Resources:**

[Cosponsors of H.R. 2537](#)